

river and Charleston, connected on the south with Charleston, with ultimate northern terminus on the Ohio river, but at present completed only to Marion, on the Western North Carolina railroad. These roads pass by Shelby. The main line of the Southern system passes through the southern end of the county touching Grover and King's Mountain.

Shelby is the county seat, finely situated on a high plateau, well drained on all sides and, in beauty of location and elegance of construction, is unsurpassed by any town of its size in the State. It is intersected by broad, straight and shaded streets, and is adorned with a large, well-planted square, in the center of which is the courthouse, the culmination of fine prospects commanding the surrounding country and the distant mountains. An excellent quality of lithia water is piped to the court square from the lithia spring, three miles distant. Here there are good hotels, fine churches, flourishing schools and an industrious population. Two miles east are the Cleveland Springs, celebrated for their varied curative powers, their comfortable accommodations and their agreeable environments. Four miles south are Patterson's Springs and the same distance north McBrayer's Springs—both held in high repute. Shelby has a population of 2,200; Kings Mountain, 1,200; and a number of small villages are scattered through the county. At the two former places are located cotton and roller flour mills. A portion of King's Mountain is in Gaston county, and it has four cotton mills which are included in the eight referred to above.

The material condition of the people of this county is improving; while there has been no decrease in the cotton crop, the county is producing a surplus of breadstuffs which is shipped out, and during the last decade personal debt has been steadily decreasing among the people.

The environment of hills on three sides of the county, with an open southern exposure gives to it an exceptionally fine winter climate, singularly free from snow; therefore very inviting to sufferers from pulmonary diseases, while its altitude and proximity to the mountains makes it one of the most desirable of summer residences.

The county contains 278,752 acres of land valued at \$1,647,705; and 811 town lots, valued at \$295,632.

Of domestic animals there are 2,574 horses; 2,951 mules; 7,607 cattle; 8,247 hogs; 2,321 sheep.

Products of taxation—For State uses \$6,674.81; pensions, \$1,365.40; schools, \$11,487.93; county, \$18,219.97.

Population—white, 17,301; colored, 3,093, total, 20,394.

COLUMBUS.

This county lies in the southeast corner of the State bordering upon South Carolina. It contains a considerable portion of upland piny woods. It is penetrated through all its parts by narrow belts of gum and cypress swamps and considerable tracts of oak and pine flats. The average soil of its upland piny woods is of moderate fertility, well adapted to the growth of cotton, but the richer swamp and